



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

May 1, 2007

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chairperson
Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: HB 857-FN-L, relative to permitting responsibilities assigned under the
Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act**

Dear Chairman Fuller Clark:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 857-FN-L, which would clarify permitting responsibilities assigned under RSA 483-B, the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA). The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this legislation as amended and passed by the House of Representatives. However, we have a concern with our ability to implement the proposed changes with existing staff. This concern is resolved if HB 663-FN, as amended by the House, becomes law thus providing DES with additional resources for implementation of the CSPA.

By passage of Senate Bill 83 in 2005, the Legislature established a study commission to review the effectiveness of the CSPA. In 2006, after 13 months of review, the CSPA Commission filed a final report outlining its conclusions, as well as 17 recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the CSPA. HB 857 would enact those recommendations relative to clearly defining when approvals were necessary and which governing body would be responsible for compliance issues and permitting authority relative to the requirements set forth in RSA 483-B. DES believes that the proposed legislation will serve to clarify the responsibilities of both state and municipal regulatory agencies and will provide a methodology for ensuring consistent application, implementation, and enforcement of the CSPA.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this bill. Please feel free to call me at 271-2958, or Rene Pelletier at 271-2951, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representatives Spang and Powers
Senator Fuller Clark